

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 482  
By Hassell

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Joseph Anderson Clayton on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pay homage to those exemplary educators who have contributed significantly to the nurturing and development of this state's most precious resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Joseph Anderson Clayton is one such outstanding person who has served as a voice of integrity in education for over 40 years, both as an educator and administrator of schools in the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, a 1950 graduate of Collierville High School, Mr. Clayton attended the University of Memphis on a football scholarship, receiving a bachelor of science degree in physical education and secondary education; in 1961 he earned a master of arts degree in educational administration and supervision from that same school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clayton began his distinguished teaching career in 1954 as a teacher and coach at Collierville High School. After a two year stint in the U.S. Army he returned to the school, taking over as Collierville head football coach in 1957; and

WHEREAS, in 1959 Mr. Clayton became the head football coach at Oakhaven High School and two years later assumed the duties of assistant principal at the school; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 he was elevated to the principal's position at Oakhaven, serving with probity in that important position for seven years; and

WHEREAS, after serving three years as principal at Overton High School, Joseph Clayton was named to the same position at Briarcrest High School, where for 14 years he served astutely and with distinction; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 Mr. Clayton began his tenure as president of the Briarcrest Christian School System, a term of service that stands unequalled for dedication, compassion and professionalism in the history of education in this great state; and

WHEREAS, through the years, Joseph Clayton has contributed his time and considerable talents to the University of Memphis Education Alumni Board, the University of Memphis Society, Inc., the University of Memphis School of Education, and the Collierville Department of Recreation; and

WHEREAS, he is a past recipient of the coveted "Man-Of-The-Year" award, given by the Southeast Memphis Exchange Club for his commitment to youth. He has also received the Freedom Foundation's American Educators Medal award; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Clayton is highly regarded by everyone in his profession and participates in numerous civic organizations such as the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the West Tennessee Education Association, the Memphis Education Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals, the West Tennessee Principals Association, the Memphis Public School Principals Association and the Memphis Association of Independent Schools; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clayton evinces his faith at the First Baptist Church in Collierville, where he has adroitly served as a deacon for 45 years; and

WHEREAS, his many honors and accolades aside, Mr. Clayton is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife, Nell; their three children, Anita Hurdle, Andy Clayton and Alan Clayton; and ten grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Clayton has given his utmost to the youth of Shelby County for over 40 years, always placing the educational progress and the welfare of these young people above personal gain or concerns; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. Joseph Anderson Clayton upon his superlative career as an educator, and extend to him our best wishes for peace and prosperity in his much deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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